

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5409

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0959

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: FURTHER INCIDENTS IN CAPE TOWN TOWNSHIPS

REF: CAPE TOWN 928

SUMMARY - RIOT POLICE WERE CALLED IN TO DISPEL DEMONSTRATIONS
IN TWO "COLORED" TOWNSHIPS AND IN THE "BLACK" TOWNSHIPS
OF GUGULETU OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN AUGUST 24. SEVERAL INJURIES
BUT NO RPT NO DEATHS WERE REPORTED. A BANTU AFFAIRS ADMIN-

ISTRATION BOARD (BAAB) OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT 70
BLACK EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE TO BE LAID OFF DUE TO DESTRUCTION
OF FACILITIES IN EARLIER RIOTS (REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, POLICE CLASHED WITH DEMONSTRATORS
IN THREE SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN CAPE TOWN AUGUST 24. IN THE
"COLORED" TOWNSHIP OF BONTEHEUWEL, THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS CLOSED
AT NOON AFTER POLICE USED TEAR GAS AND BATONS TO BREAK UP A
DEMONSTRATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PLACARD-CARRYING STUDENTS.
THAT EVENING, MOBS OF ADULTS AND STUDENTS REPORTEDLY BEGAN
SMASHING DOORS AND WINDOWS AT AN NGK (A "COLORED" DUTCH
REFORMED) CHURCH. NEARBY SHOPS AND OFFICE WINDOWS, RIOT
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SQUAD VEHICLES AND OTHER VEHICLES WERE STONED. A BUS DRIVER

AND ONE PASSENGER WERE REPORTEDLY INJURED BY FLYING GLASS AND AN AMBULANCE CARRYING TWO WOMEN WAS STONED BUT ESCAPED WITHOUT INJURY TO THE OCCUPANTS.

2. IN THE "BLACK" TOWNSHIP OF GUGULETU, STUDENTS FROM A HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL BEGAN A MARCH PROTESTING THE DEATH OF A FELLOW 13-YEAR-OLD STUDENT KILLED IN EARLIER RIOTING AND BURIED LAST SATURDAY. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS, A BUS WAS THEREAFTER STONED AND THE DRIVER KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS. HE WAS LATER RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL. POLICE REPORTEDLY USED TEAR GAS AND BATON CHARGES TO BREAK UP THE CROWD OF SOME 500 ADULTS AND STUDENTS.

3. MORE THAN 500 STUDENT TEACHERS REPORTEDLY DEMONSTRATED AT THE "COLORED" HEWAT TRAINING COLLEGE IN ATHLONE, BOYCOTTING CLASSES AND MAKING A BONFIRE FROM COPIES OF A TEXTBOOK ON COLORED EDUCATION WHICH THEY FOUND OBJECTIONABLE. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS DISPERSED BY RIOT POLICE. STUDENTS REPORTEDLY SAID THE DEMONSTRATION CONCERNED RULES AT THE COLLEGE AND WAS NOT CONCERNED WITH "OUTSIDE EVENTS".

4. A BAAB SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT SOME 70 BLACK EMPLOYEES WILL BE DISMISSED THIS MONTH DUE TO DESTRUCTION OF BAAB FACILITIES IN EARLIER RIOTS. WORKERS PAID WEEKLY WILL RECEIVE TWO WEEKS' PAY AND THOSE EMPLOYED ON A MONTHLY BASIS WILL RECEIVE A MONTH'S WAGES. HE SAID SOME WORKERS MIGHT BE REHired ONCE NEW FACILITIES HAD BEEN ERECTED.

5. AS THIS REPORT WAS IN PREPARATION, NEWS REPORTS INDICATED THAT UNREST CONTINUED TODAY (AUGUST 25) IN THE BONTEHEUWEL TOWNSHIP WHERE POLICE USE OF TEARGAS IN BREAKING UP A DEMONSTRATION OF STUDENTS AT THE MODDERDAM PRIMARY SCHOOL DREW AN ANGRY CROWD OF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS WHO BEGAN STONING POLICE BEFORE THEMSELVES BEING DISPERSED BY TEARGAS.

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